

Washington, DC -- New York Governor David Paterson assured U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) today that Upstate New York's economic development and growth will continue to be a leading priority in any statewide economic development program. Recent news accounts reported that the Governor was looking to revamp the structure of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC).

"I have been assured by the Governor's office that the unique needs – and vast potential - of Upstate New York will remain one of the state's top priorities, as he moves forward with economic development efforts," **Arcuri said**. "I am relieved to hear that the Governor remains committed to the significant economic resources for Upstate development that are already in the state budget and critical funding for local development projects to help create jobs where we need them."

Arcuri sent a letter to the Governor asking the Governor to review any plans to change the current ESDC co-chairmanship that could jeopardize the economic interests of Upstate New York. The Governor assured Arcuri that Upstate communities and leaders would be included in all future discussions to ensure the best interests of Upstate are represented in statewide economic development programs. Arcuri asked the Governor to make sure any chairman appointed has full and comprehensive knowledge of the Upstate economy.

"The Upstate New York economy, particularly within the counties I represent, has been devastated by job loss and economic downtimes throughout the last two decades," **Arcuri continued**

"That said, we have also made tremendous strides in recent years to heal economic scars and begin rebuilding the region. It is essential that ESDC provide focus, attention and financial assistance to Upstate New York based on the leadership of someone with expertise and experience with our history and vision."

Since taking office, Arcuri has worked in Congress to make sure economic development resources are available to address the specific challenges and immense potential of Upstate New York. Arcuri sponsored legislation, passed by the House of Representatives, to create a Northern Border Regional Commission charged with investing \$40 million each year in federal resources for economic development and job creation.

The House of Representatives also passed, with Arcuri's strong support, numerous pro-small business measures including \$4.84 billion in tax relief for small business owners, and the Small Business Lending Improvements Act, which provides small businesses with tools to encourage entrepreneurial innovation.

A copy of the letter Arcuri sent to Governor Paterson is included below:

May 9, 2008

The Honorable David Paterson  
Governor  
State of New York  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Paterson:

It has come to my attention through recent media reports that you are considering altering the existing leadership structure of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC). Specifically, I have concerns regarding your proposal to do away with the current two-branch, separate Upstate and Downstate ESDC co-chairmen.

While I can appreciate your concern that the existing co-chairmen system does not represent a "unified New York," the Upstate and Downstate economies are quite unique in both their economic strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, economic development experience and priorities, which may be good for Downstate, are not always good for Upstate. It is critically important for any future ESDC chairman or chairmen to understand, appreciate, and have significant experience with Upstate New York's economic needs. I am confident that solutions exist to unify New York's economic development strategies, while ensuring that Upstate's economic development interests are represented and encouraged to thrive.

The Upstate New York economy, particularly within the counties I represent, has been

devastated by job loss and economic downtimes throughout the last two decades. That said, we have also made tremendous strides in recent years to heal economic scars and begin rebuilding the region. It is essential that ESDC provide focus, attention and financial assistance to Upstate New York based on the leadership of someone with expertise and experience with our history and vision.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue with you in further detail. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention and consideration and, for your continued leadership on behalf of our state.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. ARCURI  
Member of Congress

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